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County Council of Salop.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1945

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health.

SHREWSBURY,
June, 1947.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
and Housing Committee.*

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health Services and Sanitary Circumstances of the County for the year 1945, and it is regretted that its issue has been so long delayed.

The services dealt with in the Report were, as a result of war-time conditions, carried on with a depleted and changing staff, and the scheme for the Care of Illegitimate Children and Unmarried Mothers is the only branch of the work in which there was any considerable development during the year.

For the purposes of this scheme the accommodation at the County Home for Ailing Babies, now known as the Flora Dugdale Memorial Home, has been made available for the illegitimate children, up to two years of age, of Shropshire women who are not in a position to make proper provision for them. Domiciliary supervision of the illegitimate children not so accommodated, and of the unmarried mothers themselves, is carried out as part of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council, and is exercised by the Moral Welfare Workers of the Lichfield and Hereford Diocesan Associations, with whom an arrangement has been entered into by the County Council. As this scheme only came into full operation in the latter part of 1945, it will be dealt with more adequately in the Annual Report for the following year.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance I have received in the preparation of this Report from the various members of the office staff.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY.

June, 1947.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1945.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area(in acres) of Administrative County	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244,156
Estimated Population Mid Year 1945	{ for Birth and Death rates			..	..	..	..	..	256,530
	{ Urban—for Birth and Death rates			..	..	..	..	..	131,580
	{ Rural—for Birth and Death rates			..	..	..	..	..	124,950
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,904
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1945)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,344,374
Sum represented by a penny rate (as at 1st April, 1945)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,556

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

			Male.	Female.	Male and Female	Rates.
Live Births	{ Legitimate ..		2123	1973	4096	15.97
	{ Illegitimate ..		270	255	525	2.05
	{ Total ..		2393	2228	4621	18.01—(Per 1,000 of the Population).
Still-births :	Total	..	59	62	121	25.52—(Per 1,000 live and still-births).
Deaths :	Total	..	1520	1536	3056	11.9 —(Per 1,000 of the Population).

Deaths of women in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—

Total	..	..	..	..	7 (or 1.5 per 1,000 live births).
From Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	..	..	..	..	2
From other causes	..	..	..	..	5

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	38.95
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	34.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	70.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	439
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	4
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	4
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	21
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	..	..	..	..	0

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was, for Birth-rates and Death-rates 256,530.

Marriages.—The number of marriages was 2,281—an increase of 436 on last year's figures (1,845).

Births.—There were 4,621 births in 1945—a decrease of 582 as compared with the previous year.

The birth-rate was 18.01 per thousand of the population, or a decrease of 2.01 as compared with 1944.

The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 16.1 per thousand.

Deaths.—There were 3,056 deaths in 1945 an increase of 87 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate was 11.9 per thousand of the population, or an increase of 0.5 as compared with 1944.

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 11.4 per thousand.

Cancer.—There were 439 deaths from Cancer in 1945—a decrease of 16 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate was 1.711 per thousand of the population—a decrease of 0.040 as compared with 1944.

Infant Mortality.—The infant mortality rate in 1945 was 38.95 per thousand live births, an increase of 4.75 upon the 1944 rate of 34 per thousand, which was the lowest ever recorded in this county.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 46 per thousand live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

As will be observed from the statistical table on page 4 there was an increase of 151% in the number of cases of measles notified, but considerable decreases are shown in the other common forms of infectious disease. Cases of Diphtheria were again fewer for the fifth consecutive year, and there was an appreciable decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Acute Pneumonia.

There has been no change during the year in the position in respect of Isolation Hospital accommodation.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1945.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Population (Census. 1931) 244,156	SCARLET FEVER.	WHOOPING COUGH.	DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).	MEASLES (excluding Rubella).	ACUTE PNEUMONIA.	CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	ACUTE POLIO- ENCEPHALITIS.	ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	DYSENTERY.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PURPURAL PYREXIA	SMALL-POX.	ENTERIC (Typhoid and Para- typhoid) Fever.	ERYSIPELAS.	CHICKEN-POX.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
RURAL	122,491	154	290	2	1255	76	3	6	—	—	16	30	24	—	—	13	—
URBAN	121,665	191	193	5	840	83	9	7	—	—	73	24	36	—	—	27	—
TOTALS FOR 1945 ..		345	483	7	2095	159	12	13	—	—	89	54	60	—	—	40	—
TOTALS FOR 1944 ..		420	609	25	801	195	1	10	—	1	91	38	61	—	6	51	—
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) ..		—75	—126	—18	+1294	—36	+11	+3	—	—1	—2	+16	—1	—	—6	—11	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The primary responsibility for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria has hitherto rested with the Local Sanitary Authority. Since 1942, however, the County Council has assumed concurrent responsibility with the District Council for ensuring that immunisation against Diphtheria is available to all children below the age of fifteen years whose parents are willing to accept the treatment, and except in the Borough of Shrewsbury which has a very complete scheme of its own, much the greater part of the Diphtheria Immunisation work in the County has been carried out under the County Council scheme by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Since 31st December, 1945, the primary responsibility for ensuring that facilities are available for the immunisation against Diphtheria of those children who have not attained the age of 5 years and are not attending a School recognised by the Ministry of Education, has been placed upon the Welfare Authority, and the County Council is therefore responsible for the immunisation of these children for the whole County with the exception of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is an independent Child Welfare Authority.

The following table gives particulars of the children under five years of age, and of those between the ages of 5 and 15, who were immunised under the various arrangements in the County :—

Children immunised in the County of Salop during 1945.

Arrangement	Aged under 5 years	5—15 years	Total
County Council	2,509	472	2,981
Borough of Shrewsbury	535	55	590
Other Districts in the County	335	6	341
	3,379	533	3,912

The average annual number of births in the five years ended 31st December, 1944, was 4,710. Deduction of deaths under one year of age reduces this figure to 4,516 which may be regarded as the maximum number who could have been immunised at one year of age during 1945. The number of “under fives” actually immunised during the year was 3,379, a percentage of 74.8.

The position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation in the County of Salop can be summarised as follows :—

On 31st December, 1945, 55.2 per cent of children under five years of age had been immunised and 84.9 per cent of those between the ages of five and fifteen, giving a total for all children under fifteen years of age of 74.5 per cent.

The following table sets out in detail the numbers dealt with in the individual Districts in the County during 1945, and the percentages of those under five and between five and fifteen years of age in each District who have been rendered immune to Diphtheria—bearing in mind that immunity is a relative term.

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics for Individual Districts in the County.

Area	Local Sanitary Authority	Number immunised from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1945			Percentage immunised at 31st Dec., 1945		
		Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs. of age	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15 yrs. of age	0—15 yrs. of age
North-West Combined Districts.	Ellesmere Urban ..	13	16	29	46	77	68
	Ellesmere Rural ..	95	18	113	46	92	79
	Oswestry Borough ..	70	20	90	55	97	83
	Oswestry Rural ..	219	49	268	51	92	78
	Wem Urban ..	37	4	41	60	84	75
	Wem Rural ..	124	34	158	44	71	61
	Whitchurch Urban ..	54	11	65	38	92	73
North-East Combined Districts.	Dawley Urban ..	101	2	103	55	63	61
	Market Drayton Urban ..	54	13	67	41	94	75
	Drayton Rural ..	73	27	100	43	80	67
	Newport Urban ..	75	1	76	47	73	62
	Oakengates Urban ..	67	5	72	28	64	51
	Shifnal Rural ..	182	13	195	75	97	90
	Wellington Urban ..	110	21	131	46	69	61
	Wellington Rural ..	274	26	300	60	93	83
South-West Combined Districts.	Atcham Rural ..	335	52	387	76	91	86
	Bishop's Castle Borough ..	29	1	30	79	96	90
	Church Stretton Urban ..	24	—	24	75	90	85
	Clun Rural ..	160	10	170	62	85	76
	Wenlock Borough ..	180	47	227	65	90	81
	Ludlow Borough ..	144	36	180	75	95	88
	Ludlow Rural ..	145	36	181	75	87	83
Bridgnorth.	Bridgnorth Borough ..	79	10	89	40	66	57
	Bridgnorth Rural ..	200	26	226	43	71	61
Shrewsbury.	Shrewsbury Borough ..	535	55	590	51	85	73
WHOLE COUNTY		3,379	533	3,912	55.2	84.9	74.5

The effects of the Immunisation Campaign are demonstrated by the statistics showing the incidence of diphtheria and the number of deaths from this disease in the County during the past ten years. These figures, which include those of the Borough of Shrewsbury, are as follows:—

Notifications of and Deaths from Diphtheria since 1935.

Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Notifications	223	301	206	185	133	236	237	121	53	25	7
Deaths	20	20	7	19	13	11	9	6	6	1	—

The following table gives the number of immunisations carried out under the County Council Scheme in each year since it came into operation in 1942, and shows that a total of 15,997 children have been immunised by the Assistant Medical Officers. It will be seen that the number of children immunised during 1945 rose to 2,981, as compared with 2,654 in the previous year.

Provided that there is increasing acceptance of immunisation by the public the number of children to be dealt with each year will tend eventually to approximate more and more closely to the number of births.

Children immunised in the County since, and inclusive of, 1942.

YEAR	Under County Council's Scheme			Under Scheme for Borough of Shrewsbury			Under District Councils' Schemes		
	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total	Under 5 yrs. of age	5—15	Total
1942	2,949	1,525	4,474	865	769	1,634	2,126	6,016	8,142
1943	3,159	2,729	5,888	473	353	826	302	1,487	1,789
1944	2,169	485	2,654	483	103	586	431	107	538
1945	2,509	472	2,981	535	55	590	335	6	341
Totals for 4 years ..	10,786	5,211	15,997	2,356	1,280	3,636	3,194	7,616	10,810

PROPAGANDA—One press publicity campaign took place in November, 1943, and another was held in January, 1945. Other efforts to encourage parents to agree to the protection of their children against this disease were continued.

A child during the first year of its life is relatively insusceptible to Diphtheria, but thereafter is more liable to contract the disease. Arrangements have therefore been made for the parents of every child (outside the Borough of Shrewsbury) on attaining the age of one year to receive a card through the County Health Department emphasising the desirability of immunisation, and to this card is attached a franked consent form which the parent is invited to sign and return to the County Medical Officer. In addition, the Health Visitors, during their routine visits, encourage parents to have their children immunised, and propaganda is consistently carried out through the Child Welfare Centres. Letters are also sent to Heads of Schools encouraging them to bring to the attention of parents of school children the value of immunisation and the protection which it affords against Diphtheria.

VACCINATION.

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Vaccination Acts in the whole of the Administrative County of Salop.

With a view to the correlation of the duties under the Vaccination Acts with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and in order to secure by centralisation of the work eventual simplification of administrative procedure, the Public Health Committee decided to appoint the Chief Clerk in the County Health Office to fill any vacancy caused by resignations of existing Vaccination Officers. The Chief Clerk now acts as Vaccination Officer for the following nine Vaccination Districts, namely, Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Ellesmere, Ludlow, Madeley, Oakengates, Wellington, Wem and Llanfair Waterdine.

The table on page 9 gives full information regarding the work under the Vaccination Acts for the year 1944, together with that for the year 1945, in so far as it is at present available. From this table it will be observed that in 1944 there were 5,266 births registered, 1,404 declarations of conscientious objection and 2,415 certificates of successful primary vaccination—the equivalent of 45.86 per cent. of the total births for the year. In 1945, when the number of births registered was 4,621, there were 1,304 declarations of conscientious objection, and the total number of certificates of primary vaccination was 2,642—the equivalent of 57.17 per cent. of the total births for the year.

The following table shows the vaccination sub-districts with the highest and lowest percentages of vaccinations in the County for the year 1944 :—

<i>Highest Percentages.</i>				<i>Lowest Percentages.</i>			
Chirbury	..	..	83.33	Oakengates..	..	..	4.17
Craven Arms	..	..	75.00	Ellesmere	..	..	13.08
Market Drayton	..	..	72.57	Dawley	..	..	20.21
Bishop's Castle	..	..	71.05	Oswestry	..	..	22.14

Vaccination of Infants in 1944										Vaccination of Children in 1944 and 1945			
VACCINATION DISTRICTS	VACCINATION SUB-DISTRICTS	Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated	Insus-ceptible of Vaccination	Declara-tions of Conscien-tious Objec-tion	Died Unvac-cinated	Vaccin-ation post-poned	Re-moved out of Dis-trict	Unac-counted for	Total No. of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination received	No. of Declarations of Conscien-tious Objection actually received	1944	1945
			No. %							1944	1945	1944	1945
Bridgnorth	Bridgnorth ..	282	159 58.38	—	91	7	1	20	4	211	173	102	91
Clun	Cleobury Mortimer ..	88	47 53.41	1	37	—	—	3	—	84	66	36	30
	Bishop's Castle ..	38	27 71.05	—	8	2	—	1	—	12	32	9	8
	Chirbury ..	36	30 83.33	—	4	1	—	—	1	51	41	5	6
	Clun ..	70	38 54.29	—	14	4	—	4	—	42	41	10	24
Ludlow	Church Stretton ..	47	31 63.96	—	11	3	1	1	—	79	61	14	13
	Craven Arms ..	40	30 75.00	—	6	1	1	2	—	52	36	5	5
	Ludlow ..	180	97 53.88	—	60	5	—	5	22	137	101	59	45
Oswestry	Ellesmere ..	123	16 13.08	—	18	3	—	2	84	21	27	23	22
	Melverley ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
	Oswestry ..	533	118 22.14	—	157	11	1	72	174	148	119	133	172
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury ..	1638	982 59.95	3	334	35	9	221	54	1,059	997	323	305
Wellington	Dawley ..	94	19 20.21	1	46	1	—	5	22	35	37	2	46
	Newport ..	222	76 34.23	—	51	6	—	25	64	81	76	44	28
	Oakengates ..	96	4 4.17	—	59	9	—	—	24	11	2	67	57
	Wellington ..	684	206 30.11	—	225	23	—	44	186	240	207	228	166
	Madeley ..	368	114 30.98	—	122	8	1	14	110	110	88	130	114
Wenlock	Shifnal ..	244	100 40.98	—	41	3	—	58	42	117	64	63	53
	Market Drayton ..	175	127 72.57	1	34	—	—	6	7	204	180	33	34
Whitchurch	Wem ..	111	64 57.66	—	40	1	—	1	5	123	102	51	28
	Whitchurch ..	193	130 67.36	1	46	4	6	6	—	130	198	43	44
	TOTALS	5,266	2,415 45.86	7	1,404	127	21	490	803	2,947	2,648	1,380	1,291
Percentage of total number of births for year 1944			45.86	0.13	26.65	2.41	0.39	9.30	15.25				
" " 1943			44.90	0.19	27.99	2.64	5.04	8.02	15.47				

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1945 in the arrangements for the administration of the Institutional Medical Services transferred from the late Boards of Guardians or in the matter of Public Assistance Medical Out-Relief.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—In the County as a whole, inclusive of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, the number of live births notified or otherwise ascertained, was 4,627, and the number of still-births was 108.

In the Borough of Shrewsbury, the number of live births was 730, and the number of still-births was 24.

In the remainder of the County (for which the County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority), the number of live births was 3,897 and the number of still-births was 84.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.	To Children.				To expectant mothers .
	under 1 year.		1 to 5 years.	Total.	
	First.	Total.			
Whole-time (14)	2258	15065	17538	32603	665
Part-time (53)	1481	16543	17189	33732	2196
Totals for 1945	3739	31608	34727	66335	2861

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1943, 1944 and 1945.

Under 1 year						CHILDREN					
New Cases			Total Attendances			Between 1 and 5 years			Total Attendances		
1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945
1,889	2,238	1,710*	21,592	24,305	18,749	1,067	968	876*	16,758	17,767	15,345

* Includes figures for two Voluntary Clinics, Albrighton and Pontesbury.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Welfare Centres	New Cases			Total Cases			Total Attendances		
	1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945
Bridgnorth ..	60	50	46	70	54	51	142	99	128
Bishop's Castle ..	10	8	8	14	8	8	43	22	16
Church Stretton ..	32	19	12	36	22	15	90	45	27
Dawley	44	12	7	50	12	7	106	18	11
Donnington ..	19	9	5	20	9	7	43	14	13
Ellesmere	15	13	7	18	15	9	49	34	27
Highley	4	11	18	7	11	20	7	19	31
Ironbridge	18	22	30	20	41	33	63	48	83
Ludlow	67	48	32	69	82	88	139	126	122
Market Drayton ..	83	59	45	127	67	48	395	142	103
Newport	55	51	34	63	55	38	176	96	119
Oakengates	31	21	18	32	29	19	142	117	58
Oswestry	47	42	26	51	45	29	91	89	40
Wellington ..	64	93	58	70	100	62	229	268	200
Wem	42	39	17	51	54	24	142	143	71
Whitchurch ..	28	30	15	35	37	28	135	85	65
Totals	619	527	378	733	641	478	1992	1365	1114
Increase + Decrease —	—92 —149			—92 —163			—627 —251		

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, 28 expectant mothers made 42 attendances, and 34 children under five years of age made 134 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During the year 54 cases were notified, 20 more than in the previous year. All the cases recovered with apparently no injury to the eyesight.

County Home for Ailing Babies.—Early in 1945 certain unsatisfactory features affecting the welfare of the babies had manifested themselves. After careful enquiry and consideration, it was decided to close the Home and to make provision for the reception and treatment of sub-normal infants at the County Council Hospital where, it was felt, better facilities were available for effecting an improvement in their health. The County Home for Ailing Babies was therefore closed on the 11th April, 1945, and arrangements were made for the type of baby previously accommodated there to be taken into the County Council Hospital.

Provision of Artificial Limbs.—The Child Welfare Scheme was extended in 1944 by providing, in addition to surgical treatment, artificial limbs for children under five, subject to each case being considered by the Public Health Committee on its merits.

Infestation with Head Lice.—In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health special efforts have been made with a view to the eradication, as far as possible, of head lice. It was felt, or feared, by the Ministry that, as a result of the migration into reception areas of large numbers of evacuees from the towns, the incidence of infestation with head lice among the rural population might have increased considerably. The regular surveys which have been made of the school population by the School Nurses in this County do not, however, support the view that evacuation has produced any such result. There has, throughout the War period, up to and inclusive of 1943, been a gradual diminution in the percentage of children found to be infested with these vermin, but in the year under review the percentage rose somewhat. Thus, in 1943, the percentage of children found verminous was 8.4, this being the lowest rate recorded during the War, and it is a matter for regret that during 1944 the percentage rose to 9.1, and during 1945, a percentage of 11.4 was reached.

The most likely cause of this increase in infestation amongst school children, and probably of a paralled increase among younger children, (for which accurate figures are not, however, available), is possibly the increased employment outside the home of mothers, who consequently have less time available to devote to the care of their children. It is also possible that difficulty in procuring such articles as fine toothed combs has been partly responsible; and it is regrettable that modern fashions in hair dressing, particularly the "permanent wave," should tend to perpetuate lousiness among adults and adolescents by discouraging the washing, combing and brushing of the hair.

Instructions were issued to the Health Visitors that they should, as far as possible, try to inculcate a cleanliness conscience in all the members of the families in their districts. They were asked to inform the mothers of families not only of the necessity for keeping clean the heads of their young children, but also of the need for looking after their adolescent children in the same manner. It is recommended that among children under five years of age the hair should be cut short, and the value of regular weekly washing and daily brushing and combing of the hair is emphasised. The Health Visitors were also asked to give talks on this subject to the mothers and expectant mothers at the Centres, as well as in the homes.

Dental Treatment.—Three mothers and 11 children under five years of age received treatment from the School Dental Officers.

War-time Nurseries.—At the suggestion of the Ministry of Health and after careful consideration by the Public Health Committee it was decided to close the War-time Nurseries at Wellington and Oakengates, but to continue for a further period the Nursery at Donnington. Following receipt in December, 1945, of Ministry of Health Circular 221/45 stating that the net expenditure by local authorities on war-time nurseries would cease to be re-imbursed from the Exchequer on 31st March, 1946, the Committee decided that the Donnington Nursery should continue until 31st March, 1947, and that the question of the Nursery's use after that date should be reconsidered later.

The table set out below shows the attendances during the year 1945 at the War-time Nurseries at Donnington, Oakengates and Wellington.

Attendances at War-time Nurseries.

Location	Accommodation	Average daily attendance of Children.		
		Ages 0—5 yrs.	0—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.
Donnington ..	60 Children ..	30.8	10.0	20.8
Oakengates..	50 „ ..	20.6*	5.7*	14.9*
Wellington ..	50 „ ..	22.4*	5.0*	17.4*

* Average daily attendances up to 31st August, 1945, only.

Child Life Protection.—The following are the particulars of cases supervised during the last seven years :—

		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Number of cases	—on 1st Jan. ..	112	90	84	103	92	93	76
Number of new cases	—during the year ..	24	26	66	32	31	23	19
	reached 9 years of age	20	15	14	10	8	10	11
No. of cases removed from Register	legally adopted ..	4	3	4	6	6	9	1
	left County ..	5	3	11	9	4	14	20
	removed to relatives	17	9	16	18	10	7	10
	died ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	removed to places of safety ..	0	1	2	0	2	0	0
Number of cases	—on 31st Dec. ..	90	84	103	92	93	76	52

The following is information relating to 52 children on the Register on the 31st December, 1945 :—

	<i>Aged under five years.</i>	<i>Aged 5 to nine years.</i>
Children notified by intending foster mothers ..	11	6
Children notified by Voluntary Societies ..	1	4
Children otherwise ascertained ..	9	21

The number of Child Life Protection cases in the Borough of Shrewsbury on the 31st December, 1945, was 10, of whom 5 were under five years of age, and 5 between the ages of 5 and 9 years.

In addition there are two Homes in Shrewsbury (maintained by the Waifs and Strays Society and Dr. Barnado's Homes,) with 58 children, 53 of whom were under five years of age and 5 between the ages of five and nine years.

Flora Dugdale Memorial Home.—This Home (formerly the County Home for Ailing Babies) was opened on the 17th July, 1945, to provide accommodation for illegitimate children, up to two years of age, of Shropshire women who are unable to look after the children themselves.

It was intended that 15 children should be accommodated, but up to the end of the year only 9 had been admitted, chiefly owing to staffing difficulties. Two of these children were discharged before the end of the year. The average number of children in the Home since its opening was 5.7, and the average age on admission was 9 months.

Midwifery Services.—During the year there were 173 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire as compared with 176 in 1944.

Statistics relating to Work under Midwives Acts.

Year	Midwives practising in December	Visits of Inspection.	Notifications received from Midwives.					
			Medical help.	Still-birth.	Death of mother or Child.	Artificial Feeding.	Liability to be a source of infection.	Having laid out a Dead Body.
1937	242	359	1223	40	23	67	140	62
1938	202	458	1190	40	23	57	136	61
1939	233	505	1240	39	21	52	169	31
1940	221	597	1390	49	17	60	160	42
1941	185	271	1479	60	30	110	144	35
1942	173	344	1466	59	29	39	130	49
1943	181	335	1402	56	35	137	200	35
1944	176	336	1484	70	44	138	203	31
1945	173	230	1222	65	37	140	218	24

Maternal Deaths.—In 1945 notification was received from Registrars of 6 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In 4 of these cases a doctor had been engaged prior to the confinement.

The Maternal Death-rates in this County, based on the official returns of the Registrar General of seven deaths, was 1.5 per thousand live births, as compared with 1.7 per thousand for the previous year.

The Maternal Death-rate for England and Wales for 1945 was 1.79 per thousand live births, and 1.93 for 1944.

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths in this County since 1930, and it will be observed that 103 deaths out of a total of 254 were the result of a first pregnancy. This fact bring out the importance of attendance to the health and general well-being of the mother who is approaching her first confinement.

Maternal Deaths, 1930 to 1945.

		Causes of Death Investigated				Death-rate per 1,000 live births		
		All causes	Puerperal Pyrexia	Other	Number in first confinement	Shropshire		England and Wales
						Local Statistics	Official Statistics	
Total (1930—42)	..	228	77	151	93	4.21	4.02	..
1943	..	13	1	12	3	2.6	2.2	2.29
1944	..	7	2	5	3	1.3	1.7	1.93
1945	..	6	1	5	4	1.3	1.5	1.79

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—During 1945, the number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts received from medical practitioners was 426, and the fees paid in connection therewith amounted to £804. The number of claims received during 1944 was 629 involving the payment of £1,200.

Obstetrical Consultant.—During the year the opinion of the County Council Obstetrical Consultant was sought in 15 confinement cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—During the year 67 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, one of whom died. In the previous year 70 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, three of whom died.

Pemphigus.—Four cases of Pemphigus occurred during the year. There were no deaths.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Registration.—The local Supervising Authority has the power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases, and registration has not been insisted upon in the case of the following Institutions :—

Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury.
King Edward VII Memorial Sanatorium, Shirlett.
Lady Forester Hospitals, Broseley and Much Wenlock.
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.
Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.
Cottage Hospital, Market Drayton.

Inspection.—Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Inspector Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each Home once a quarter. During the year 61 inspections were made.

Accommodation Provided.—During the year, two new Nursing Homes were registered and one certificate was cancelled.

Number of Homes taking general cases only	9
Patient accommodation—98 beds and 2 cots.	
Number of Homes taking maternity cases only	5
Patient accommodation—17 beds.	
Number of Homes taking both maternity and general cases	14
Patient accommodation—188 beds and 2 cots.	

In all, therefore, there are 28 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 303 beds and 4 cots.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

The table below summarises the work carried out at the County Council Hospital during 1945. The figures for 1944 are given for purposes of comparison.

Cases treated in the County Council Hospital during 1944 and 1945.

	Men		Women		Maternity		Children				Totals	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	5—16		Under 5		1944	1945
Cases (1st January) ..	24	33	41	20	37	41	5	3	7	12	114	109
Admissions	443	389	495	558	656	666	79	56	102	104	1775	1773
Discharges	371	316	470	495	650	686	80	52	87	87	1658	1636
Deaths	63	70	46	48	2	1	1	—	10	19	122	138
Cases (31st December)	33	36	20	36	41	19	3	7	12	10	109	108

The average number of occupied beds for 1945 was 120, as compared with 105 for the previous year. In order to give some indication of the nature of the work carried out at the County Council Hospital, this has been broadly categorised in the table below. There is an increasing demand on the accommodation for maternity patients, and admissions have now been restricted to abnormal cases and to women who, owing to home circumstances, cannot properly be confined in their own homes.

	Beds occupied in 1945						1944
	Men	Women	Maternity	Children		All cases	All cases
				Under 5	5—16		
Average ..	42	37	27	9	5	120	123
Highest ..	99	61	39	13	12	188	191
Lowest ..	20	25	7	4	1	92	91

Midwifery.—The number of women confined in the County Council Hospitals in 1945 was 666, as compared with 656 in the previous year. There were two maternal deaths—one due to pneumonia and the other to Fatty Degeneration of the heart.

The number of babies born was 659 (20 twins), amongst whom there were 15 deaths due to the following causes :—Prematurity 11 ; Asphyxia 3 ; Hydrocephalus 1.

The number of still-births was 17.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Saturday morning in Shrewsbury, where all booked cases attend periodically for examination and advice. The average number in attendance was 30 per session.

Other Work.—The number of surgical operations (major and minor) was 330.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—During the year, 162 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, which is 7 more than in the previous year, but the number of deaths from this form of the disease remained exactly the same.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—In the case of other forms of the disease, the number of notifications for 1945 was 105, or 10 more than in the previous year ; and there was also an increase of 4 in the number of deaths.

Particulars of Notifications of, and Deaths from, both forms of the disease are as follows :—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary), 1945.

Age periods of cases	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
1—5	1	1	10	5	1	3	5	1
5—15	3	1	16	20	1	0	2	1
15—25	35	18	11	15	8	7	1	0
25—35	22	10	2	10	6	9	2	1
35—45	22	12	1	4	15	7	0	0
45—55	11	1	3	2	13	8	0	1
55—65	12	8	1	3	12	6	1	1
65 and upwards ..	3	1	1	0	8	3	2	0
	110	52	46	59	65	43	13	5
TOTALS FOR 1945 ..	162		105		108		18	
TOTALS FOR 1944 ..	155		95		108		14	

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Notifications and Death Rates since 1938.

Year	Notifications	Deaths	Population	Rates per 1,000	
				Notifications	Deaths
1938.. .. .	164	71	241,400	.68	.29
1939.. .. .	156	91	*244,900	.63	.36
			†249,500		
1940.. .. .	198	72	257,170	.76	.27
1941.. .. .	246	109	276,920	.88	.39
1942.. .. .	208	91	268,900	.77	.33
1943.. .. .	213	126	260,900	.81	.48
1944.. .. .	155	108	259,830	.59	.41
1945.. .. .	162	108	256,530	.63	.42

*Estimated population for Birth-rate purposes.

†Estimated population for Death-rate purposes.

Allowances to Patients (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—During the year ended 31st December, 1945, allowances were granted to 39 patients for the first time, and of these, 27 received Maintenance Allowances only, 8 received both Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances, 3 received Special Payments, and 1 received both Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances in addition to a Special Payment.

Discretionary Allowances are awarded to enable patients to meet standing charges such as high rent and insurance premiums.

Special Payments include allowances in respect of pocket money made to single persons while in the Sanatorium ; allowances to married women to assist them to provide domestic help in their homes while they themselves are receiving treatment in the Sanatorium ; and grants to patients' relatives to enable them to visit the Sanatorium.

Below are particulars of payments being made on the 31st December, 1944, and 31st December, 1945.

	31st December, 1944	31st December, 1945
Number receiving Maintenance Allowances	38	34
Number of above also receiving Discretionary Allowances ..	9	7
Number receiving Special Payments—		
(a) pocket money	8	3
(b) provision of domestic help	1	1
(c) travelling allowances for relatives	0	1

Visits of Tuberculosis Officers.

	1944	1945
On notification	110	115
To contacts	30	29
To suspicious cases	204	171
On discharge from Sanatorium	7	5
Other occasions	100	111
	<hr/> 451 <hr/>	<hr/> 431 <hr/>

Examination of Sputum.—The total number of sputum specimens examined during the year was 984 as compared with 991 in the previous year.

Shelters.—There are at present 138 shelters in the County, 129 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax.—Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 36 new cases, and there are now 107 patients who regularly attend the Treatment Centres.

Particulars of Patients receiving Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.

Centre	No. of cases treated	No. of refills given
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary ..	61	974
Wellington Public Assistance Institution ..	38	877
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients) ..	8	73
	107	1924

X-Ray Examination.—During 1945, two thousand one hundred and eighty five X-Ray Films were taken, an increase of one hundred and nineteen over the previous year.

Light Therapy.—During the year 28 cases attended, and 818 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic scheme.

Tubercular Peritonitis.—An arrangement has been made with the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital for the treatment of patients suffering from tubercular peritonitis. The number of cases sent for treatment during the year was 3.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—During the year 15 cases were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium, 10 were discharged and 5 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of admissions, discharges and deaths during 1945 :—

	Admitted	Discharged	Died
Adults—			
Males	57	56	0
Females	33	32	0
Children—			
Boys	1	0	0
Girls	1	1	0
	92	89	0

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—

Attendances at Tuberculosis Dispensaries, 1945.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES	No. of cases who attended during the year		SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES			Total Attend- ances
	Total	For the first time	Notified Cases	Non-notified cases		
				Contacts	Suspects	
Shrewsbury	885	636	1758	315	864	2937
Oswestry	196	81	723	25	134	882
Wellington	835	476	2590	208	579	3377
Whitchurch	98	51	47	54	96	197
Ludlow	71	37	54	42	35	131
Bridgnorth	81	45	91	24	59	174
	2166	1326	5263	668	1767	7698

Dr. Watkin writes :—"In the Annual Report for 1938 I said—"If peace is maintained between the European Powers, the decline of Tuberculosis in this country may be expected to continue, but if War comes, it will almost certainly bring an increase in the disease.' "

"The second World War having now come to an end, it may be useful to consider what the effects have been. For the first two years, 1939 and 1940, there was little change in the figures for notifications and deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and actually in 1940 the death rate was slightly lower than in 1938, namely .27 per thousand,—which was a record in this County. For the past five years the death rate has been somewhat higher, and has averaged .40, and the notifications have averaged .73 compared with .68 in 1938. There has therefore been some increase in the death rate, but it has not reached the alarming height of 1918, when the first European War ended.

"During the twenty years between the two Wars there was a remarkable decline in Tuberculosis in this country. This decline has been arrested. Relief from the strain of War may now bring some amelioration, but until the housing question is solved, and food restrictions can be dispensed with, it is doubtful if a great improvement can be expected.

"The need for better Institutional accommodation for advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been a pressing one in this County for many years. No solution is so far in sight. The County also lacks apparatus and staff for Mass Radiography. An advance in both these directions should be possible now that the War is over."

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

The Central Hospital is the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Park Hall, Oswestry, and After-Care Clinics are held weekly at Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wellington ; fortnightly at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch ; and monthly at Newport and Oakengates.

Attendances at Clinics.—The following table gives particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1945. The tuberculous cases, which are of all ages, are the smallest in number, but their attendances at the Clinics extend as a rule over a very prolonged period.

Attendances at Orthopaedic After-care Clinics, 1945.

Age Groups	On Books 1/1/45	Admitted during 1945	No. treated during 1945	Discharged during 1945	On Books 31/12/45	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/45	Attendances during 1945
Under 5 years ..	568	336	904	399	505	0	1,246
5—16 years ..	1,065	656	1,721	641	1,077	3	3,355
Over 16 years ..	1,108	604	1,712	677	795	240	2,945
T.B. cases (all ages)	140	21	161	25	107	29	637
Totals ..	2,881	1,617	4,498	1,742	2,484	272	8,183

It will be observed that 4,498 patients are stated to have been treated during 1945, but as 92 of these have been included in more than one group, the actual figure should be regarded as 4,406. In addition 246 cases for whom treatment was not found to be necessary were examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon, and these have not been included amongst the attendances at the After-Care Centres.

Hospital Patients.—Persons suffering from conditions and defects of such a nature that they cannot be adequately dealt with at the After-Care Centres are admitted for treatment to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. Particulars of cases (the cost of whose treatment was borne either by the Public Health or Education Committee) admitted to Hospital for treatment in 1945 are given in the table below.

Cases admitted to Orthopaedic Hospital in 1945.

Disease	Under 3 years of age	3—16 years of age	Over 16 years of age	Total
Tuberculosis	1	15	10	26
Osteomyelitis	—	10	—	10
Congenital Defects and Deformities	6	24	1	31
Acquired Deformities	—	30	1	31
Injuries (Bones and Joints)	4	37	8	49
Arthritis	—	4	5	9
Poliomyelitis	2	7	—	9
Osteo Chondritis	—	—	1	1
Other Defects	—	3	—	3
Total for 1945	13	130	26	169
Total for 1944	16	59	28	103

Particulars of the numbers of beds occupied are given in the table below. It should be noted, however, that as the Public Assistance Committee was responsible for the treatment of non-tuberculous patients above the age of 16 until May, 1938, when the Public Health Committee accepted responsibility for them, the average number of beds occupied by this particular group has been given separately under the heading "Non-Tuberculous Adults," as, otherwise, they would vitiate the comparative value of the figures in the Table.

Beds occupied by Shropshire Patients during the period 1921—1945.

	Averages					Totals for the years				
	1921—25	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—45	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Tuberculosis (all ages) ..	40	33	27	27	20	19	17	25	24	17
Medical Inspection ..	14	13	11	17	13	11	13	15	10	16
Child Welfare ..	8	5	3	5	5	4	7	6	4	4
TOTAL ..	62	51	41	49	38	34	37	46	38	37
Non-tuberculous Adults ..	—	—	—	7	4	6	4	5	4	3

The cost to the County Council of Hospital treatment of Orthopaedic cases under the various schemes is as shown below, but again, in order to make the figures comparable, the cost of the non-tuberculous patients above the age of 16 has been given separately.

Cost of Treatment in Orthopaedic Hospital.

Scheme	Yearly Averages				Years				
	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—45	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Tuberculosis	£ 4269	£ 3122	£ 3567	£ 2795	£ 2857	£ 2582	£ 2850	£ 3073	£ 2613
Medical Inspection ..	1608	1323	1626	1823	1415	1574	1753	1931	2441
Child Welfare	778	331	452	782	833	716	912	1022	428
Annual Average Cost ..	6655	4776	5645	5400	5105	4872	5515	6026	5482
Non-tuberculous adults ..	—	—	*856	484	324	606	370	713	407

*This amount represents the average annual cost of treatment for the period 1938—40. Non-tuberculous adult cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital were, until 1st May, 1938, the responsibility of the Public Assistance Committee.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1936—1943.

Licences.—At the end of the year 206 licences to produce Tuberculin-Tested Milk and 580 licences to produce Accredited Milk had been issued by the County Council—an increase of 29 in the number of Tuberculin-Tested Licences and a fall of 40 in the number of Accredited Licences.

In addition, Bottling Licences were also granted by the County Council to 21 producers of Tuberculin-Tested Milk and to 14 producers of Accredited Milk.

The Licensing position as compared with previous years, is as given below. The variation in the figures for 1945 is partly accounted for by the graduation of producers of Accredited Milk to the production of milk of Tuberculin-Tested standard.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Tuberculin Tested ..	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84	111	177	206
*Accredited	14	390	533	542	595	689	675	666	677	652	620	580

* Previous to 1936 its equivalent was designated "Grade A" Milk.

Dairy Herds in the County.—It may be of interest to compare the number of designated and undesignated herds in the County, and to this end the following information has been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The figures relate to the year ending 30th June, 1946, and so are not completely identical with the licensing figures given for 31st December, 1945.

Number of Tuberculin-Tested and Attested Herds ..	301*
„ „ Accredited Herds	579
Total Number of Designated Herds	880
Number of Undesignated Herds	4,100
	4,980

*Includes 63 Herds which are attested only.

During 1945 there was an increase of 80 in the number of designated herds and a decrease of 769 in the number of undesignated herds. In 1945 the designated herds formed 17.7% and the undesignated herds 82.3% of the whole. In 1944 the corresponding percentages were 14.1 and 85.9 respectively.

Examination of Milk—Routine Sampling.—Of 666 samples of Tuberculin-Tested Milk, 208 proved unsatisfactory, and of 2,525 samples of Accredited Milk, 999 were unsatisfactory. In addition, 447 “Qualifying” samples of milk were collected, 176 of which were unsatisfactory.

The following is a summary of the numbers of samples taken and the result of examinations of these samples :—

Designation	Total Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested Milk	666	458	208
Accredited Milk	2525	1526	999

Biological Sampling.—The County Council is responsible for the enforcement of Sec. 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. This Section prohibits the sale of milk, for human consumption, which has been obtained from a cow known to be tuberculous. On 16th June, 1945, authority was given for the collection of two samples of milk per year from Designated Herds for biological examination.

383 samples of milk were submitted for biological examination up to 31st December, 1945, of which 277 were from Accredited herds, 77 from T.T. herds and 29 from herds “qualifying” for Designated Milk Production.

The following is a summary of the samples taken :—

Designation	Samples taken	Negative	Positive	No. of Cows dealt with under Tuberculosis Order
Tuberculin Tested	77	75	2	—
Accredited	277	270	7	10
Qualifying	29	29	—	—
Totals	383	374	9	10

In addition to the above, 19 samples of milk supplied to Schools under the Milk in Schools Scheme were submitted for biological examination and all proved to be negative for Tubercle Bacilli. Seventeen of these samples were obtained from designated milk producers (3 Tuberculin-Tested, 5 Accredited and 9 Pasteurised) and the remaining 2 were samples of undesignated milk.

Disciplinary Action.—The Milk (Special Designations) Committee considered the milk sampling records of 105 designated milk producers from whose premises three consecutive unsatisfactory samples had been collected ; and of these, 25 Accredited producers and 7 Tuberculin-Tested producers were warned. In addition 53 Accredited Licences and 7 Tuberculin-Tested Licences were suspended, while 11 Accredited Licences and 2 Tuberculin-Tested Licences were revoked.

Inspection of Premises.—The County Sanitary Inspectors made 1,438 visits to farms during the year.

Tuberculous Milk.—During the year, 15 reports were received from Medical Officers of Health that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in this County. The herds involved in these complaints were examined, and 13 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

School Milk.—Out of a total of 343 schools in the County (which had the names of 33,643 children on the registers), fresh milk was supplied daily, under the Milk in Schools Scheme, to 307 schools. At these 307 schools a total number of 23,550 children availed themselves of the opportunity to partake of the milk supplied. These figures indicate that 89.5 per cent. of the schools in the County and 69.9 per cent. of the school children in the County were supplied with milk under this scheme.

The milk supplied is obtained, wherever possible, from designated Producers, viz. : Tuberculin-Tested (65 schools), Accredited (64 schools), and Pasteurised (141 schools).

Undesignated milk is supplied to 37 schools by approved producers whose farms had been inspected by the County Sanitary Inspector and whose herds are examined by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Dried milk was supplied to the children at 14 schools and at 22 schools no milk was available.

During the year under review 5 schools were newly incorporated into the Milk in Schools scheme.

Bacteriological Sampling (School Milk).—16 samples of milk supplied to Schools under the Milk in Schools Scheme were submitted for bacteriological examination. A summary of the results of the examinations is given below :—

Designation	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	4	1	3
Accredited	6	2	4
Pasteurised	5	4	1
Undesignated	1	—	1
Totals	16	7	9

The producers of the unsatisfactory samples of milk were visited and advised in the methods of clean milk production.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 661 samples were collected, 534 being samples of milk and 127 samples of foods other than milk.

Two hundred and fifteen samples were found on analysis to be not genuine (205 being milk samples, 5 samples of Baking Powder, 1 a sample of Brawn, 1 a sample of Compound Liquorice Powder, 2 of Carbonate of Soda and 1 of Non-Alcoholic Cocktail). Appropriate action was taken in each case and in 20 instances Court proceedings followed, resulting in fines ranging from 10/- to £25 (and totalling £166/10/0) being imposed and total costs of £62/13/6 being allowed.

To secure the efficient administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in the County, and to ensure that samples should be procured concurrently over as wide an area as possible without appointing additional Sampling Staff, the sampling functions of the Public Health Department in connection with food and drugs other than milk were undertaken, in conjunction with their other duties, by the Staff of the Weights and Measures Department under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health. This arrangement came into operation as from March 1st, 1945.

Details of the samples are given below :—

Description of Samples	Number of Samples taken				
	Total	Formal		Informal	
		Genuine	Non-Gen.	Genuine	Non-Gen.
Milk	534	320	192	9	13
Malt Vinegar	3	—	—	3	—
Boracic Powder	3	—	—	3	—
Baking Powder	9	—	1	4	4
Pure Glycerine	1	—	—	1	—
Flavouring Essence	4	—	—	4	—
Ground Ginger	7	—	—	7	—
Cream of Tartar	3	—	—	3	—
Magnesia Carbonate	2	—	—	2	—
Gelatine	4	—	—	4	—
Mustard	2	—	—	2	—
Pepper	4	—	—	4	—
Borax	1	—	—	1	—
Sausage	17	—	—	17	—
Arrowroot	1	—	—	1	—
Syrup of Figs	2	—	—	2	—
Head and Nerve Powders	2	—	—	2	—
Glauber Salts	1	—	—	1	—
Brawn	4	1	—	2	1
Non-Alcoholic Wines	7	5	—	1	1
Zinc Ointment	1	—	—	1	—
Health and Liver Salts	2	—	—	2	—
Ground Cinnamon.. .. .	4	—	—	4	—
Curry	1	—	—	1	—
Canned Peas	1	—	—	1	—
Coffee and Coffee Essence	5	—	—	5	—
Rice	1	—	—	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	7	—	—	7	—
Epsom Salts	2	—	—	2	—
Ground Nutmeg	2	—	—	2	—
Compound Liquorice Powder	1	—	—	—	1
Beef Extract	2	—	—	2	—
Carbonate of Soda	2	—	—	—	2
Borax and Honey	1	—	—	1	—
Cornflour	1	—	—	1	—
Seidlitz Powder	2	—	—	2	—
Sweetening Tablets	2	—	—	2	—
Tincture of Iodine.. .. .	1	—	—	1	—
Scones	1	—	—	1	—
Semolina	3	—	—	3	—
Cocoa	2	—	—	2	—
Chocomalt	1	—	—	1	—
Oatmeal	1	—	—	1	—
Pearl Barley	1	—	—	1	—
Ammoniated Quinine Tablets	1	—	—	1	—
Macaroni	1	—	—	1	—
Cough Balsam	1	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ..	661	326	193	120	22

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY.

Following the decision of the Public Health Committee that fuller information concerning the sanitary circumstances in the individual Districts, and in the County as a whole, should be available to them, District Medical Officers of Health were asked to complete the following questionnaire and from the answers received, the table below and that on the following page were compiled.

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WATER. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total number of houses in District (1944) 2. Number of houses with piped supply 3. Nature of supply to remaining houses |
| SEWAGE. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of houses in District (1944) 2. Number of houses connected to Sewer 3. Number of other houses connected to satisfactory Sewage Disposal Works |
| HOUSING. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of houses in District (1944) 2. " " fit for human habitation 3. " " requiring minor repairs 4. " " requiring reconditioning 5. " " which should be demolished 6. " " needed to replace those demolished and to relieve overcrowding |

Summary of Answers to Questionnaire on Water and Sewage.

Medical Officer and District.	Houses in District.	SEWAGE DISPOSAL.		WATER SUPPLIES.	
		Connected to sewer.	Other satisfactory sewage disposal	Piped Supply.	Supply to remaining houses.
Dr. Dickson.					
Bridgnorth Borough	1,683	1,533	Nil	1,628	Wells and Springs.
" Rural ..	3,438	400	100†	634	" "
Dr. Evans.					
Oswestry Borough ..	2,931	2,900	10	2,901	Wells.
Ellesmere Urban ..	590	581	5	590	
Wem " ..	658	624	34	656	Wells.
Whitchurch " ..	1,899	1,724†	24	1,849	"
Ellesmere Rural ..	1,713	Nil	—	362	Wells and Springs.
Oswestry " ..	4,229	1,265	28	2,870	" "
Wem " ..	3 004	Nil	260	474	Wells.
Dr. Gregory.					
Bishop's Castle Borough	396	354	—	374	Wells and Springs.
Ludlow " ..	1,553	1,350†	—	1,500†	Wells.
Wenlock " ..	4,333	2,000†	—	3,360†	"
Church Stretton Urban	684	475	Nil	628	Wells and Springs.
Atcham Rural ..	5,305	530	—	2,650	" "
Clun " ..	2,879	—	—	1,400†	Wells, Springs, Streams
Ludlow " ..	3,852	450†	—	1,246	Wells and Springs.
Dr. Stewart.					
Dawley Urban ..	2,179	1,265	Nil	1,894	Standpipes from mains.
Market Drayton Urban	1,470	1,372	83	1,460	Wells.
Newport " ..	976	967	Nil	974	"
Oakengates " ..	3,000	2,500	6	3,000	
Wellington " ..	2,769	2,733	12	2,759	Wells.
Drayton Rural ..	2,319	138	79	915	"
Shifnal " ..	2,586	1,500	56	1,980	Wells and Springs.
Wellington " ..	5,400	2,442	8	4,210	Wells, Springs, Boreholes.
Dr. Symons.					
Shrewsbury Borough	11,400	10,967	254	11,226	Wells.

† Approximate.

— Figures not available.

Summary of Answers to Questionnaire on Housing.

Medical Officer and District.	Population (1931 Census).	Houses in District.	Fit.	Minor Repairs.	Reconditioning.	Demolition.	Replacement.
Dr. Dickson.							
Bridgnorth Borough ..	5,295	1,683	1,083	150†	160	500	819
„ Rural .. † ..	12,616	3,438	2,200†	600†	350†	250†	500†
Dr. Evans.							
Oswestry Borough ..	9,961	2,931	2,300	700	350	250	300
Ellesmere Urban ..	1,872	590	563	35	15	12	100
Wem „ ..	2,255	658	638	20	50	20	25
Whitchurch „ .. † ..	6,174	1,899	1,319	100	50	200	230
Ellesmere Rural .. † ..	6,684	1,713	1,500	—	100	50	80
Oswestry „ .. † ..	16,569	4,229	4,119	—	200	110	130
Wem „ .. † ..	10,273	3,004	2,824	—	30	70	80
Dr. Gregory.							
Bishop's Castle Borough † ..	1,352	396	301*	95*	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ludlow Borough .. † ..	5,823	1,553	1,343	100	50	60*	83*
Wenlock „ ..	14,149	4,333	—	—	—	—	5/600
Church Stretton Urban ..	2,398	684	678	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Atcham Rural ..	19,576	5,305	—	—	—	—	—
Clun „ ..	10,673	2,879	—	—	—	—	—
Ludlow „ ..	14,511	3,852	—	—	—	—	—
Dr. Stewart.							
Dawley Urban ..	7,669	2,179	1,269	315	108	495	543
Market Drayton Urban ..	4,749	1,470	1,337	—	45*	88*	300
Newport „ ..	3,437	976	674*	72*	90*	140*	150*
Oakengates „ ..	11,249	3,000	1,475	275	550	700	1,200
Wellington „ .. † ..	8,550	2,769	1,816	340	417	196	276
Drayton Rural .. † ..	7,888	2,319	463	1,392	232	232	250
Shifnal „ ..	7,583	2,586	—	—	—	—	—
Wellington „ ..	16,118	5,400	—	—	—	130	200/250
Dr. Symons.							
Shrewsbury Borough ..	36,732	11,400	—	—	—	—	—

† Medical Officer of Health indicated that figures were approximate.

* 1939 figures. — Figures not available.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 307).—No new grants towards the capital cost of schemes of water supply have been sanctioned during the year by the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and several schemes previously approved for grant under this Section have been postponed as a result of the War.

The table on page 31 gives particulars of the grants which have been paid or promised by the County Council in respect of schemes of water supply, from which it will be seen that the County Council has approved the payment of grants up to a possible total of £48,123, towards the capital cost of new schemes, the actual or estimated cost of which amounts to a total of £155,539.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—Under this Act a sum of £15,000,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Minister of Health to assist local authorities in the provision or improvement of water supplies and the provision of sewerage facilities in rural localities.

Where the Minister undertakes to make contributions towards the expenses incurred by local authorities in the provision of water supplies or sewage disposal facilities, the County Council is required, under Section 2 of the Act, to contribute towards the cost of these services.

The following are details of water supply schemes submitted under this Act by District Councils, and approved in principle by the County Council :—

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description
Bridgnorth R.D. . .	Claverley	£14,040	Scheme for extending Wolverhampton Corporation's mains to Claverley. Provision made for extending scheme to Worfield at a later date.
Clun R.D.	Clun Rural District . .	£162,000	Scheme for supplying the greater part of the Rural District. The figure given as the estimated cost does not include contingencies estimated to amount to £28,000 which will probably bring the final estimated cost to £190,000.
Ellesmere R.D. . .	Ellesmere Rural District	£74,000	Scheme for extension of existing supplies and provision of new sources of supply.
Ludlow R.D. . . .	Ludlow Rural District	£168,700	Scheme for supplying practically the whole of the Rural District.
Oswestry R.D. . .	Oswestry Rural District	£101,125	Scheme proposed for improving and extending existing supplies and for provision of new supplies which it is estimated will cover 91% of the population.
Wellington R.D. . .	Wellington Rural Parish and Dawley Urban District . .	£13,750	Proposed to connect to Shifnal Rural District Council's mains and supply the Parish of Wellington Rural and augment the supply of Dawley Urban District.

Proposed additional or new water supply schemes are in course of preparation by the Whitchurch Urban District Council and the Drayton and Wem Rural District Councils.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 307).—During the year under review no new applications were received for County Council grants under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and one scheme, submitted by the Ludlow Rural District Council for the disposal of sewage from the Cleobury Mortimer district and approved by the County Council in 1939, was withdrawn, as a new scheme was in course of preparation.

As in the case of water supplies, the majority of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, which were approved for purposes of grant, were postponed as a result of the War, and the particulars of the grants paid or promised by the County Council in respect of approved schemes are given in the table on page 32. From this table it will be seen that the County Council has approved the payment of grants amounting to a possible total of £32,213 towards an actual or estimated capital cost of £152,622 for new schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal.

The actual cost of the Albrighton Scheme of the Shifnal Rural District Council (which was approved by the County Council in 1944) proved to be £13,077 and not £11,628 as originally estimated. During November, 1945 the County Council accordingly resolved to increase their contribution from 25% of the originally estimated cost to 25% of the actual cost, thereby increasing the amount of the contribution from £2,907 to £3,269.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.—The following are details of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes which have been submitted by District Councils under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, and approved in principle by the County Council during the year 1945 :—

District	Scheme	Estimated Cost	Description
Bridgnorth Borough	Bridgnorth Borough	£82,600	Scheme for extension and improvement of existing facilities. As this is not made necessary by proposals initiated under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, this may not ultimately rank for grant.
Clun Rural ..	Clun Village.. ..	£18,800	Scheme for extension and improvement of existing facilities and to avoid discharge of crude sewage into the River Clun.
Ludlow Rural ..	Cleobury Mortimer ..	£22,330	Scheme for extension and improvement of existing facilities and to avoid discharge of waste into Pudding Brook.

HOUSING.

The administration of the various Housing Acts is the responsibility of the District Councils, the County Council's functions being mainly supervisory.

Housing Act, 1936.—Under Section 88 of the Act, it is a special duty of the County Council to have constant regard to the housing conditions of persons of the working classes within the Rural Districts, and to obtain information regarding conditions of, and progress in, housing through the medium of returns to be supplied at least annually by the Councils of the Districts.

Under Section 115, it was the duty of the County Council, prior to 1st January, 1939, to contribute to a Rural District Council £1 per house for a period of 40 years in respect of each new house built to meet the needs of the agricultural population ; but since that date the payments to be made by the County Council are as required by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, under which this section of the Act of 1936 has been repealed.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—This Act amends the law with respect to the making of contributions by the Minister of Health and County Councils, and may be cited together with the Housing Act, 1936, as the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1938.

In respect of each new house completed after 31st December, 1939, by any Council of a County District, the Minister may pay an annual contribution for 40 years of either £5 10s. 0d. or £6 10s. 0d. under Section 1, or £10 for the same period under Section 2 ; and in such case the County Council are obliged, by Section 7 of the Act, to make a contribution of £1 for 40 years to the Local Authority. (In exceptional circumstances the Minister may increase the contribution under Section 2 to £12 per annum, in which case the annual payment by the County Council will be proportionately increased).

Grants under Housing Acts, 1936—1938.

District Council	No. of Houses Eligible for Grant	County Council Grant	
		Period (Yrs.)	Paid to date
			£
Wenlock Borough ..	10	40	56
Atcham Rural	36	40	167
Clun	37	40	312
Drayton	42	40	281
Ellesmere	68	40	468
Oswestry	26	40	138
Wellington	38	40	364
Bridgnorth	12	40	12
	259	—	£1,798

District.	Scheme.	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Esti- mated Cost.	Ministry Grant.	Loan.		Annual Charges.		County Council Grant.		
			No. of Houses.	Inhab- itants.			Author- ised.	Period (Yrs.)	Loan.	Main- tenance	Basis.	Max- imum.	Paid to date.
Atcham R.	Pimhill	4/5/35	288	1,152	£ 16,300	£ 2,500	£ 14,820	30	£ —	£ —	50% annual deficit	£ 6,675	£ 1,894
	West Atcham	2/5/36	1,876	7,596	75,100	15,000	57,297	15	4,285	700	„	24,000	5,700
Bridgnorth R.	Stottesdon	6/11/37	28	100	2,660	250	3,100	30	153	50	Block Grant	250	250
	Kinlet	6/11/37	27	100	1,350	150		30	48	30	„	150	150
Clun R.	Bucknell	27/7/35	72	280	2,915	200	—	25	169	20	50% annual deficit	885	81
	Worthen and Brockton	1/5/37	88	350	4,500	400	4,100	30	—	—	„	1,245	291
Drayton R.	Kempton	1/2/36	31	110	2,200	250	1,650	30	—	—	Block Grant	300	300
	*Wentnor Norbury Myndtown	4/2/39	50	190	3,500	75	—	30	188	15	15% annual deficit	—	*
Ludlow R.	Woore	3/11/34	137	524	4,080	—	3,655	30	189	378	50% annual deficit	885	304
	Hodnet	4/5/35	118	400	3,887 (Actual)	450	425	25	—	—	Block Grant	900	900
Oswestry R.	Ightfield	7/11/36	119	468	6,550	75	6,475	30	—	—	50% annual deficit	3,179	758
	Norton-in-Hales	24/7/37	67	200	1,970	—	1,505	30	106	127	„	1,656	332
Ludlow R.	Clee Hill	6/11/37	511	1,930	5,516	—	5,516	30	317	108	33½% annual deficit	1,837	309
	Weston Rhyn	2/2/35	—	—	900	150	750	30	58	—	Block Grant	150	150
Wellington R.	Llanymynech	2/11/35	93	372	8,500	1,850	—	—	—	—	„	1,850	1,850
	Nantmawr	7/11/36	27	108	1,268	—	1,160	30	68	5	50% annual deficit	639	127
Wellington R.	Gronwen	7/11/36	10	40	437	—	373	30	23	2	„	225	28
	Llynclys	7/11/36	24	96	783	—	746	30	14	5	„	415	83
Wellington R.	Selattyn (Ext'n)	7/11/36	1,186	4,744	1,748	—	1,748	30	92	277	„	2,032	270
	*Pentre	7/11/36	28	112	1,469	75	—	—	69	27	„	—	*
Wellington R.	*Ruyton-xi-Towns	7/11/36	114	456	4,556	175	—	—	230	68	„	—	*
	Edgmond	2/11/35	200	800	5,350	850	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	850	850
					£155,539							£48,123	£14,627

* Scheme postponed.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES—COUNTY COUNCIL GRANTS.

District	Scheme.	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme.		Esti- mated Cost.	Loan.		Annual Charges.		County Council Grant.		
			No. of Houses.	Inhab- itants.		Author- ised.	Period.	Loan.	Main- tenance.	Basis.	Maxi- mum.	Paid to date.
					£	£		£	£		£	£
Wenlock B.	Broseley ..	4/2/39	540	2,200	8,800	8,800	30	485	200	15% Cost	1,320	1,320
Dawley U.	Dawley ..	4/2/39	1,535	5,117	40,960	38,600 2,360	30 15	2,340	300	20% "	8,200	—
Oswestry R.	Weston Rhyn ..	4/2/39	314	1,256	13,500	13,500	30	741	223	15% "	2,025	—
Shifnal R.	Albrighton ..	4/11/44	783	2,800	13,077	10,805 669 154	30 15 10	641	120	25% "	3,269	3,269
Wellington R.	Ketley and Lawley ..	2/5/36	796	650	31,975	22,398	30	659	300	25% "	8,000	8,000
	Donnington and Muxton ..	4/2/39	388	1,552	18,460	600 17,204 666	60 30 15	1,028	100	20% "	3,692	3,692
	Donnington and Muxton (ex- tension) ..	28/10/39	—	—	9,000	—	—	—	—	20% "	1,400	1,400
	ditto	29/5/43	—	—	16,850	14,625 2,225	30 20	919	100	20% "	3,370	3,370
					£152,622						£32,213	£21,051

VENEREAL DISEASE.

There was evidence of a material increase in the prevalence of Venereal Disease in the County during 1945, Particulars of the cases dealt with under the various arrangements made by the County Council are given below.

Clinics.—The main treatment centre for Shropshire cases is, of course, the Shrewsbury Clinic, but the Oswestry Clinic, which was opened in 1941, has justified its existence, the number of cases dealt with there during 1945 having increased by 20% and the attendances by 103%.

Treatment by General Medical Practitioners.—General Medical Practitioners with the necessary qualifications, who are willing to undertake at the expense of the County Council the treatment in their own Surgeries of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, dealt with seventeen male and twenty-five female cases during 1945, an increase of 23 on the previous year's total.

Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.—This Hostel owned by the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, receives women and girls suffering from Venereal Disease who cannot be adequately dealt with at clinics.

The County Council has for more than 20 years sent cases to the Hostel but very little use is now made of it, and this consideration, combined with staffing difficulties have caused the Association to close it temporarily.

It is intended to review the necessity for such a Hostel before deciding upon its permanent closure.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1944 and 1945.

	SHREWSBURY CLINIC											
	Cases						Attendances					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Syphilis	60	67	70	87	130	154	394	383	725	666	1119	1049
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	45	79	40	48	85	127	110	188	171	139	281	327
Other Conditions ..	65	55	130	110	195	165	125	204	362	330	487	534
Totals	170	201	240	245	410	446	629	775	1258	1135	1887	1910
Increase (+) Decrease (—)	+31		+5		+36		+146		—123		+23	
	OSWESTRY CLINIC											
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Syphilis	11	11	5	13	16	24	51	92	56	172	107	264
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	9	4	6	9	15	13	32	34	11	37	43	71
Other conditions ..	2	8	22	21	24	29	5	20	43	48	48	68
Totals	22	23	33	43	55	66	88	146	110	257	198	403
Increase (+) Decrease (—)	+1		+10		+11		+58		+147		+205	

	WOLVERHAMPTON CLINIC				General Medical Practitioners			
	New Cases		Attendances		Cases			
	1944	1945	1944	1945	Male	Female	1944	1945
Syphilis	4	—	264	423	4	10	—	8
Soft Chancre	—	—			—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	8	4			2	3	1	1
Other conditions	14	13			5	4	7	16
Totals	26	17	264	423	11	17	8	25
Increase (+)								
Decrease (—)								
		—9		+159		+6		+17

Examination of Pathological Specimens from Treatment Centres.

	Culture	Serum	Microscopic
Salop Clinics	167	160	427
Wolverhampton Clinic	—	71	82

Regulation 33.B.—In January, 1943, Regulation 33.B. was added to the Defence (General) Regulations, and provides for the compulsory treatment of Venereal Disease in certain circumstances. The object of the Regulation is to bring under medical care those infected persons who have shown themselves unresponsive to educational propaganda, or to methods of persuasion, and who remain a constant source of danger to the health of the community. The following is a brief outline of the scheme.

When a Medical Officer, specially approved by the Ministry of Health for the purposes of the treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, and therefore referred to in the Regulation as a "Special Practitioner," is informed by one of his patients of the source of infection, and the person named has been reported in this way on more than one occasion, that person, described in the Regulation as the "contact," comes within the category of those liable to be dealt with under this Regulation.

Notification of such cases is sent by the Special Practitioner to the Medical Officer of Health of the County or County Borough in which the contact resides, and the Medical Officer of Health is required on receipt of the second notification to serve a notice requiring the attendance of the contact for examination and treatment by a Special Practitioner. In the event of failure to comply with this notice, the person named is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment or fine, or both; and attendance for treatment is required until a certificate is received from the Special Practitioner stating that the patient is free from Venereal Disease in a communicable form.

Subsequent to the coming into force of Regulation 33.B., the Ministry of Health issued a Circular stating that there was some misunderstanding of the position, and therefore a difference of opinion regarding the action which could be taken when *only one notification* had been received in respect of an alleged contact. The Ministry suggested that, by the paying of an informal visit before the receipt of a second notification, much might be done to prevent the spread of infection; and the Public Health Committee, after considering this Circular, decided that the County Medical Officer of Health should not of necessity await a second notification, but should, at his discretion, take such informal action as seemed desirable on receipt of the first notification.

It may be pointed out that, notwithstanding the power which Regulation 33.B. gives to the Venereal Diseases Authority to serve notice on the contact requiring his compulsory attendance for treatment on receipt of a second notification, the recommendation of the Ministry of Health is that, before serving such a notice, a second informal visit should be paid, and that the notice should only be served when failure to attend shows that the second informal visit has not achieved its object.

All contacts are therefore visited immediately and informally on receipt of the first notification, but of course no other action can be taken to secure attendance in any particular case pending the receipt of a second notification from a Special Practitioner. When this is received in the case of a contact who has not responded to the first informal visit, a second such visit is paid; and if the contact does not then attend for treatment a formal notice is served. As there is often some delay in securing attendance for treatment while awaiting the result of the second informal visit, the desirability of serving a notice on receipt of the second notification without any further informality is worthy of consideration.

During 1945, the number of contacts notified was 41 (males 1, females 40). Two notifications were received in respect of one of these contacts; in the remaining 40 cases only one was received. The necessary visits, formal and informal, were carried out with the following results :—

Number who were already in attendance	5
„ „ attended on own initiative	2
„ „ „ for treatment after one visit	18
„ „ received treatment elsewhere	2—27
Number who did not attend :—	
(a) Promised but failed to attend	4
(b) Could not be traced	5
(c) Refused to attend	3
(d) Removed from County—transfer notified	2—14
	—
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BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following examinations have been carried out on behalf of the County Council at the Donaldson-Hudson Pathological Laboratories, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury :—

								1945
Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs	For	Diphtheria bacilli						1272
	„	Haemolytic Streptococci						1761
	„	Vincent's Angina						848
		Other Examinations						217
Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli	Microscopic							1597
	Culture							1267
	Other Examinations							549
General Cultural Examinations of Sputum								51
Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms								563
Widals Tests								41
Venereal Diseases Examinations :—	Serological							1360
	Bacteriological							1165
Bacteriological Examinations of Water samples								1306
Bacteriological Examinations of Milk samples								695
Other Bacteriological Examinations								1492
Haematology—Blood counts, etc.								531
Biochemical Examinations								810

BLIND PERSONS ACTS.

Register of Blind Persons.—On the 31st March, 1946, there were 462 blind persons on the Register. Particulars of these persons are as follows :—

Home Workers	20
Workshop Employees	1
Members of St. Dunstan's	20
Persons otherwise employed	20
Persons of independent means	11
Unemployable persons living at home	338
Persons in Homes for the Blind	6
Persons in Public Assistance Institutions	26
Inmates of Asylums	5
Adults undergoing training	3
Adults trained but unemployed	2
Children in Special Schools for the Blind	9
Children under 5 years of age	1

Domiciliary Relief of the Blind.—During the Financial Year which ended on the 31st March, 1946, £14,088 3s. 10d. was paid in Domiciliary Relief of the Blind. This figure includes amounts subsequently reclaimed from other Counties, the amount reclaimed being £508 14s. 7d.

Home Workers.—The average number of Home Workers supervised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind was 20, and the average number of visits paid to each during the year was 4. The earnings of Home Workers average 37/3 weekly and this was supplemented by an average augmentation of 29/2.

Shropshire Association for the Blind.—This Association, which employs two Home Teachers, exercises a general supervision over the welfare of all blind persons in the County. The Home Teachers investigate all applications for assistance, and case sheets with recommendations are submitted to the Public Health Committee for consideration. When these have been approved grants are paid fortnightly by cheque sent by the County Accountant.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Four motor ambulances are owned by the County Council. All are now stationed at the County Council Hospital. (In addition there is at the Hospital a converted ambulance used as a staff van, which can be, and sometimes is, used to serve the purposes of an ambulance, as well as a "Utilicon" which at times undertakes ambulance duties).

Details are given below of the Ambulance facilities in the County :—

County Council	4
Local Authorities	8
Voluntary Hospitals	2
Lady Forester Hospital, Much Wenlock.	
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.	
Other Voluntary Bodies	7
St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Shrewsbury ;	
Oswestry and District Ambulance Committee ;	
Ludlow Joint Ambulance Committee ;	
Madeley Ambulance Committee ;	
Albrighton Ambulance Committee ;	
Newport and District Voluntary Ambulance Committee ;	
Pontesbury Ambulance Association.	
Private Enterprise	1
Newport	

MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.—Weekly sessions of the Mental Treatment Clinic were held at the Royal Salop Infirmary during the year ended the 31st March, 1946. Seventy-six new patients were seen at the Clinic by the Medical Officer, Dr. Stanley Hughes, during the year, and re-visits were made by 21 of these patients.

The Salop Mental Hospital admitted Sixty-five "voluntary" and five "temporary" patients during the same period.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1930—1938.

Statistics.—The following are particulars of the numbers of defectives dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts and either “under order” or under statutory supervision on the 31st December, 1944 and the 31st December, 1945, respectively:—

	MALES				FEMALES				Total	
	Under 16		Over 16		Under 16		Over 16			
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Cases in State Institutions	—	—	6	6	—	—	7	7	13	13
Cases in Certified Institutions	12	7	88	87	6	6	121	123	227	223
Cases under Guardianship	—	—	6	6	—	—	14	14	20	20
Cases on Licence (a) from Institutions	—	—	13	17	—	—	23	20	36	37
(b) from Guardianship	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	2	5	3
Cases under Statutory Supervision ..	21	20	97	98	27	29	94	100	239	247
Grand Totals	33	27	211	215	33	35	263	266	540	543

In addition to the above there were 658 defectives not formally supervised under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act, who were kept under friendly supervision by the Health Visitors. A further 68 mental defectives were accommodated in Public Assistance Institutions, and 129 in the Mental Hospital.

School Cases.—The power conferred on Local Education Authorities by Section 55 (1) of the Education Act, 1921, to certify certain children as defective, has been withdrawn by the Education Act, 1944, under which Act regulations have been issued defining “Educationally Subnormal Pupils” as :—

“ Pupils who, by reason of limited ability or other conditions resulting in educational retardation, require some specialised form of education wholly or partly in substitution for the education normally given in ordinary schools.”

The following are particulars of Educationally Sub-normal children under the Salop Education Committee on 31st December, 1945 :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
In Special Schools	7	7	14
Awaiting admission to a Special School	16	8	24
Under Supervision of School Nurses ..	44	30	74
	<hr/> 67	<hr/> 45	<hr/> 112

There were in addition, 143 school-children (94 boys and 49 girls) whose mental condition had been called in question, about fifty percent. of whom, it has been estimated, will probably prove to be in need of Special School Education. It has thus been calculated that there were a total of 183 educationally sub-normal children under the Local Education Authority, who are eligible for admission to Special Schools.

